

Safety Alert!

Bribery and Coercion – Social Media, Facebook and Skype

Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Incident: There have been several instances in the country including Saratoga Springs and the Capital region where unsuspecting college age students have been “friended” by subjects who portray themselves as wanting to establish a relationship. As the conversations continue the victims are requested to visit each other via Skype or other video media. When the victims agree they are talked into participating in activity (often sexual in nature) that could be embarrassing if made public. Unknown to the victims is that the perpetrators are video recording the Skype interaction. Immediately afterwards, the perpetrator sends a snapshot from the interaction and demands money to be sent to an account or the video will be posted on Facebook. The perpetrators may also ask for credit card and personal information as well.

Investigation: Local police agencies are involved in investigating these incidents which constitutes serious criminal activity.

Recommendations:

- Do NOT participate in any activity on the internet with subjects you do not in fact know.
- Do NOT provide any personal information on the Internet that could be used in this or any other type of criminal activity.
- Ask yourself what would happen if the information or activity you are participating in should become public and do not implicitly trust anyone you do not know on any form of social media.
- It is further recommended that anyone who may have been involved in this type of criminal scam contact Campus Safety and local law enforcement. If you are the victim of this type of crime is also requested to provide any information to authorities so that your exposure can be limited as much as possible.

Call **Campus Safety @ 580-5566 or X5566** or **Saratoga Police @ 584-1800** with any information.